

Fall 8-15-1998

ENG 1091C-092: Rhetoric and Composition: Honors

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RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION: HONORS

English 1091C(092)
CH202 (1100-1215)

Dr. Zahlan
316E CH, 581-6977, cfar

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to help motivated students become more discerning and critical readers and thinkers, more informed citizens, and more articulate and effective speakers and writers.

TEXTS: Peterson, et al., eds., *The Norton Reader*, 9th ed. (Norton)

Fulwiler and Hayakawa, *The Blair Handbook*, 2nd ed. (Prentice Hall) (Handbook)

DR. Z.'S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 4:30-5:45; Wednesdays 4:00-4:45; Thursdays 9:30-10:30
Additional Hours by Appointment

ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK I

- Tuesday, 25 August: Introductions & Assignments
Thursday, 27 August: Introductions & Assignments continued;
In-class writing assignment (40 minutes); (bring pen & paper to class.)
Introduction to Documentation and Research
Study Handbook 197-224 & 233-278.

WEEK II

- Tuesday, 1 September: **Meet at Circulation Desk in Booth Library**
Review Handbook 197-224.
(Prepare questions on library and electronic-media research.)
Thursday, 3 September: Read and carefully outline Morris, "Territorial Behavior," Norton
260ff.; Bring outline to class.
Assignment of Paper I due Thursday 17 September.

WEEK III

- Tuesday, 8 September: Prepare a 500-word summary of "Territorial Behavior."
Bring summary (typed) to class. Peer Evaluation/Workshop
Thursday 10 September: Read and carefully outline FitzGerald, "Rewriting American
History," Norton 886ff.

WEEK IV

- Tuesday, 15 September: Continue discussion of "Rewriting American History,"
Norton, and pre-writing for Paper I.
Thursday 17 September: **Paper I (Summary) due in class on this date.**
Be prepared to present your paper to the class.
Assignment of Paper II (Critical Analysis of History Texts
or Television News) due 27 September
Assignment of Paper III (Analysis of Recent Article) due 11 October

WEEK V

- Tuesday, 22 September: Discussion of Paper I; bring Handbook to class.
Reread "Rewriting American History" and "Territorial Behavior."
Write out questions about one or the other of the two articles: consider
accuracy, clarity, logic, and style. Cite passages to illustrate concerns.

WEEK V (continued)

Thursday 24 September: Read, outline, and prepare to discuss Schlesinger, "The Opening of the American Mind" and "Letters in Response," Norton 1243ff.

WEEK VI

Tuesday , 29 September: Read, outline and prepare to discuss Steele, "The Recoloring of Campus Life," Norton 423ff.

Thursday 1 October: **Paper II (History or News) due in class on this date.**

Be prepared to present your paper to the class.

Peer Evaluation; Paper presentations assigned for Tuesday

WEEK VII

Tuesday , 6 October: Revised Paper II due on this date. Be prepared to present your paper to the class.

Assignment of Paper IV (Book review) due on 25 October

Assignment of Research Project

Read relevant sections of Handbook

Thursday 8 October: Read and be prepared to discuss Williams, "The Clan of One-Breasted Women," Norton 717ff.

WEEK VIII

Tuesday , 13 October: Discussion of Paper II; bring Handbook to class.

Continue discussion of "The Clan of One-Breasted Women."

Conference Sign-Up for WEEK IX

Thursday 15 October: **Paper III (Analysis of Article) due in class on this day.**

Peer Evaluations; bring Handbook to class.

Paper III presentations in class

WEEK IX

Tuesday , 20 October: Paper III presentations continued

Thursday 22 October: CONFERENCES--NO CLASS MEETING

(Please bring to your conference (in 316E): graded Papers I and II, your journal, and the book you are reading for Paper IV.)

WEEK X

Tuesday , 27 October: Read and be prepared to discuss Golding, "Thinking As a Hobby," Norton 234ff.

Thursday 29 October: **Paper IV due in class--Presentations as scheduled**

Assignment of Paper V due 19 November

Conference II Sign-Up for Week XII

WEEK XI

Tuesday , 3 November: Book Presentations as scheduled (continued):

Research Project Prospectus due in class;

Thursday 5 November: Research Day--NO CLASS MEETING (Conferences next week

(Conference II: Discussion of Paper IV and Research Project)

WEEK XII

Tuesday, 10 November: Read, study, and prepare to discuss Dobbs, "The Shatterer of Worlds" Norton 781ff.

WEEK XII (continued)

Thursday, 12 November: Read, study, and prepare to discuss Fussell, "Thank God for the Atomic Bomb," Norton 787ff.

Research Presentations Scheduled (last two weeks of semester)

WEEK XIII

Tuesday, 17 November: Dobbs and Fussell continued

Conference Sign-up for after Thanksgiving

Thursday 19 November: **Paper V due in class**; be prepared to present your paper in class.

WEEK XIV

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY--NO CLASS MEETINGS

WEEK XV

Tuesday, 1 December: **Research Presentation in Class as scheduled**

Thursday 3 December: **Research Presentations in Class as scheduled**

CONFERENCE SIGN-UP

WEEK XVI

CONFERENCE IV: Required documentation conferences scheduled this week--class will meet as usual. (Bring at least four sources--books or photocopies of articles, and your printed and fully documented paper to your conference.)

Tuesday, 8 December: **Research Presentation in Class as scheduled**

Final Paper VI due on this date--two copies must be handed in (one for the Honors Program).

Thursday, 10 December: **Research Presentation in Class as scheduled**

FAREWELLS

GRADE CALCULATION

Daily Preparation, Participation, Oral Presentation of Papers, In-Class Written Assignments=25%

Paper I=5%; Papers II-V (10% each)=40%

Research Presentation = 10% Paper VI (Research Paper) = 20%

JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT

Keep a separate notebook or journal for 1091C in which you outline articles and write both initial and considered responses to reading assignments and class discussion. From time to time you will be asked to write written responses in class, and you should add them into your journal when they are returned. Use your journal also to list new words that you encounter and wish to include in your permanent vocabulary. Record reading other than course assignments; use your journal as a source of material for your papers. I will not collect or grade journals.

Read and study Chapter 4 in your Handbook (42-53).

ASSIGNMENTS--PAPERS I-IV

Paper I due Thursday, 17 September: Summary (600-900)words of FitzGerald's "Rewriting American History or William Cronon's "A Place for Stories: Nature, History, and Narrative," 894ff. or H. Bruce Franklin's "From Realism to Virtual Reality: Images of American Wars," 850ff. Read and study Handbook, pp. 244-45.

Paper Assignments (continued)

Paper II due Thursday 1 October: Critical Analysis of TV News or History Textbooks.

Paper II is a critical analysis of either: a focused aspect of coverage of news on U.S. television, or a critical analysis of the effects of social and political ideology on the presentation of American history in textbooks used in U.S. schools.

TV News Option: If you write about TV news, keep a log of notes on 10 to 12 news programs. Choose one show over a period of time, two shows for comparative study, many shows over a shorter period, coverage of a given event, political campaign, or other "story." Be sure to document the shows you cite--see Handbook.

History Text Option: If you choose to write about textbook treatments of American history, you need to find the books that you will analyse. You might get hold of a book you (or a friend or sibling) used in High School, a book that a parent or grandparent used, texts now available and/or texts from the past available in the library. A possible approach would be to analyse the differences in presentation of an event or figure in books from different periods.

As you prepare to write this essay, you may wish to reread FitzGerald's "Rewriting American History and/or to read William Cronon's "A Place for Stories: Nature, History, and Narrative," 894ff. and H. Bruce Franklin's "From Realism to Virtual Reality: Images of American Wars," 850ff.

Paper III due on Thursday, 15 October: Critical Analysis of Article on Contemporary Social Problem or Issue

Go to the library or bookstore and locate an article from a recent (January 1997 to present) magazine that deals with a contemporary social, economic, cultural, ethical issue or problem. Be sure that the article you choose is documented, responsible, and substantial. Most interesting articles reflect some ideological orientation--just be sure that you recognize the position the author is taking. Pick an issue that you are interested in. Some periodicals that contain such articles are *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Republic*, *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *The New York Review of Books*. It might serve your purpose to look through the most recent issues of journals; you might also make use of indices to periodicals, but you will not find current issues indexed. (Include a photocopy of your article with the analysis that you hand in to me; I will return the article as well as the paper.)

The paper should be written so as to give your audience (the class) a clear idea of the main argumentative point ("thesis") of the article, as well as the kind and quality of the research and the analysis provided. Additionally, you should convey your reasoned response to the positions taken by the author.

Paper IV due Thursday, 29 October: Critical Analysis of Book on a Contemporary Issue

Go to the library or bookstore and locate a book published since 1995 that deals with a contemporary social, economic, cultural, philosophical issue or problem. Be sure that the book you choose is documented, responsible, and substantial (at least 250 pages). The paper should be written so as to make clear to your audience (the class) the main argumentative point ("thesis") of the work, the kind of support provided, and the quality of the research and analysis. Additionally, you should convey your reasoned response to the positions the book takes.

ENGLISH 1091--COURSE POLICIES

STANDARDS & POLICIES: Class attendance, punctuality, preparation, and participation are expected and required. Students are responsible for all material covered in class and all announcements or assignments made in class as well as for all assignments on the syllabus. Assignments are to have been completed by class time on the date for which they appear on the syllabus. The books in which the day's assignments are contained should be brought to class.

Remember that "class participation" counts towards the course grade; absence from class will result in a "0" for the day's participation as well as on any graded work due or done in class.

Unannounced quizzes on assigned material may be given at any time. There will be no opportunities to "make up" missed quizzes.

EXAMS: There will be no opportunities to make up a missed exam or oral report other than in cases of documented medical emergency; (signing in at Health Service does not constitute documentation of a medical emergency).

Major Tests and the Final Exam should be written on test booklets, available at the Union Book Store. Please write tests in ink and on the appropriate booklets.

ALL PAPERS AND OTHER WRITTEN WORK must be handed in on the date due.

1. Work turned in late without advance clearance will not be accepted.
2. Clearance does not constitute an "excuse." Work turned in late with clearance will be penalized, usually at the rate of 5 points per day of lateness.
3. Any lateness may delay the grading and return of the paper, perhaps until the end of the semester.

BE SURE TO KEEP A COPY OF EVERY PAPER YOU HAND IN. IN THE CASE OF A MISSING PAPER, THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING A COPY.

A NOTE ON THE PRESENTATION OF PAPERS: Papers must be typed (double-spaced) or computer-printed heavy or medium-weight white 9 x 11 paper. Leave adequate margins. Each paper must have a separate title sheet which includes the title of the paper, course title, instructor's name, student's name, and date of submission. Repeat the title at the top of the first page of text. Papers must be stapled or clipped.

In the case of computer printed papers, be sure to hand in **LETTER-QUALITY (OR "NEAR LETTER-QUALITY") COPIES PRINTED ON A RIBBON THAT IS IN GOOD CONDITION--NO PALE or DOT-MATRIX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

ALSO, MAKE SURE THAT PAGES ARE SEPARATED, NUMBERED, AND CLIPPED TOGETHER IN CORRECT ORDER.

ONLY PAPERS THAT ARE NEAT AND IN CORRECT FORM CAN BE ACCEPTED.

DOCUMENTATION: Use the "new" MLA system to cite both primary and secondary sources used in your papers. The new system is fully explained and illustrated in the latest edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. Each student should have access to a copy.

Inform yourself about documentation conventions for electronic media information and materials. All such materials must be documented and citation forms are illustrated in recent handbooks; go to the Writing Center for assistance. Electronic-media materials must be evaluated for quality at least as scrupulously as print materials. Please remember that you must absorb and process all materials: downloading is not research.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All written work (papers, exams, tests, quizzes) must be original and independent. Please make sure that you understand the meaning of plagiarism and the policy of the English Department:

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of the grade of F for the course.